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Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General recommends increase in strength of United Nations Protection Force at Sarajevo airport to 1,600 personnel; Security Council to consider request.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, welcomes Secretary-General's intention to invite leaders of two sides in Cyprus to joint meeting and to convene international high-level meeting to conclude Overall Framework Agreement, as soon as proximity talks reveal that two leaders are within agreement range.

+ Security Council holds consultations on letter from Croatian President calling for military intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina to end conflict in that region, and letter from Bosnian President calling attention to escalation of violence in Gorazde, among other letters on the situation in the region.

+ Secretary-General installs Commission on Truth to investigate acts of violence in El Salvador.

+ Human Rights Committee begins forty-fifth session at Geneva during which it will examine reports by States on measures taken to implement International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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Describing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as "one of the worst humanitarian emergencies of our time", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) at Sarajevo airport be increased to some 1,600 personnel. The enlargement of the Force, for a four-month period from mid-June to mid-October 1992, would amount to some $22.7 million. The recommendation must now be considered by the Security Council.

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In a further report to the Security Council, dated 10 July, the Secretary-General explained that the need for air traffic control, an artillery-locating radar platoon, a helicopter unit and a medical unit, among other things, had raised the number of personnel required in Sarajevo.

The Chief Commander of UNPROFOR, General Satish Nambiar, had informed the Secretary-General that he was "greatly perturbed by the situation" in Sarajevo, and by the many reports and indications of deteriorating conditions throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Secretary-General said it was clear that despite an encouraging start, the Sarajevo airport operation was based upon "foundations of the utmost fragility". In addition, the provision of humanitarian aid to the rest of the country was "sparse, intermittent, and harzardous".

Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated in his report that "the current success of the airport operation" was an "outstanding tribute to the determination and courage of all who are participating in it". But their endeavours, he added, "have not yet stimulated a corresponding initiative by the parties to seek a lasting peace based on a political settlement". Only urgent efforts by the international community to address the basic causes of the conflict, including negotiations with all the parties involved in it, could resolve the conflict in the region, he said.

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In a Presidential statement read out by Council President José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) this afternoon, the Security Council has welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to invite the leaders of two sides in Cyprus to a joint meeting and to convene international high-level meeting to conclude Overall Framework Agreement, as soon as proximity talks reveal that the two leaders are within agreement range.

While welcoming the separate meetings between the leaders the Secretary-General at Headquarters from 18 to 23 June, the Council noted with satisfaction that the discussions focused on the issues of territorial adjustements, displaced persons and other issues that make up the set of ideas on a overall framework agreement.

The Council also praised the acceptance by the leaders of the two communities to resume their meetings with the Secretary-General on 15 July and to remain "for such reasonable duration as may be necessary to complete the work". Calling on both leaders to be ready to take the necessary decisions "to reach agreement on each of the issues as dealt with in the set of ideas as an integrated whole on an overall framework agreement", the statement said the forthcoming meetings represented "a determining phase in the Secretary-General's effort".

The present proximity talks on Cyprus - which were interrupted on 23 June due to the Secretary-General's absence from Headquarters - took place in New York in the framework of Security Council resolution 750 of 10 April, which asked the Secretary-General to take up intensive efforts "to complete a set of

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ideas during May and June 1992". By that resolution, the Council had further asked the Secretary-General "to submit a full report to the Council of his efforts by July 1992 at the latest and to make specific recommendations for overcoming any outstanding difficulties".

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The Security Council was holding consultations this afternoon on a number of letters concerning different aspects of the continuing crisis in former Yugoslavia.

In a letter, dated 11 July, Bosnian President Alija Izebegovic called for an urgent meeting of the Council "in order to send an ultimatum to Serbia and Montenegro to stop their criminal attack against the innocent citizens of Gorazde". Mr. Izebegovic called the situation, "unprecedented " and said it represented "the twilight of civilization".

In a letter dated 12 July, the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman pointed to an "avalanche of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina", which he said had led to insurmountable difficulties in his country. Over 20,000 "panic-stricken" refugees had fled in one 24-hour period across the Croatian border, he said, pointing out that as the world focuses on Sarajevo, the Serbian and Montenegrin aggressors were "escalating their attacks on other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina." Mr. Tudjman stressed that the only remaining solution to halt the aggression lay in the "rapid and energetic international intervention by military forces". President Tudjman's letter was transmitted to the President of the Security Council by Zdenko Skrabalo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia.

Another letter, dated 13 June, from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey, called attention to the "escalating brutal aggression" by the Belgrade regime, not only in Gorazde, but in other areas of his country. In view of that situation, he requested that the Council take "all steps necessary including air power, to stop this humanitarian nightmare" from deepening, and he asked that the Council initiate relief flights to Tuzla, a city north of Sarajevo. Ambassador Sacirbey suggested that the city's airport and environs could be used as an efficient distribution point for relief to Goradze and other desperate towns nearby.

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The Commission on the Truth -- established by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) under the Mexico Agreements of April 1991 -- was formally installed this morning at Headquarters in the presence of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The Commission has been set up to investigate serious acts of violence that have occurred in El Salvador since 1980 and whose impact on society "urgently demands that the public should know the truth".

The Commission is mandated to consider the exceptional importance that may be attached to the acts to be investigated, their characteristics and

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impact, and the social unrest to which they gave rise, as well as the need to create confidence in the positive changes which the peace process is promoting and to assist the transition to national reconciliation.

The Commission is composed of three members appointed by previous Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. They are: Belisario Betancour, former President of Colombia; Reinaldo Figueredo, former Foreign Minister of Venezuela; and Professor Thomas Buergenthal, former President of the Inter-American Court for Human Rights and Honorary President of the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights. The Commission is expected to publish a report within six months. Already, the Government and FMLN have agreed to cooperate fully with the Commission and to comply with its recommendations.

The three members of the Commission and its Executive Director are scheduled to travel to El Salvador tomorrow to commence their work.

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In Geneva, the Human Rights Committee began today its forty-fifth session during which it will examine reports by a number of countries on measures they have taken to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee, composed of 18 experts serving in their personal capacity, will examine reports submitted by the Republic of Korea, Belarus, Mongolia, Peru and Burundi to promote and protect human rights in those countries.

During the two-week session - the second of three scheduled this year - the Committee will also study communications from individuals claiming to be victims of a violation of any of the rights proclaimed in the covenant. There are 148 such communications pending from earlier sessions. The Committee will also discuss preparatory activities relating to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, to be held at Vienna, and to consider ways of contributing to the process.

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